

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-88. Cancelled.

89. (New) A shoe upper, including one or more resiliently deformable protrusions extending from an outer surface of the shoe upper and positioned for contact with a ball, where each protrusion includes at least an inner contoured shape portion and an outer contoured shape portion, and where the outer contoured shape portion is deformable so as to promote engagement of the protrusion with the ball.

90. (New) A shoe upper as claimed in claim 89, in which at least one protrusion includes two or more outer contoured shape portions arranged so as to radiate outwardly relative to the inner contoured shape, and where:

(a) the outer contoured shaped portion nearest the inner contoured shape portion in the arrangement bounds the inner contoured shape portion; and

(b) each successive outer contoured shape portion bounds the preceding outer contoured shape portion.

91. (New) A shoe upper according to either of claims 89 or 90, in which one or more of the outer contoured shape portions in any protrusion is deformable radially relative to the inner contoured shape portion.

92. (New) A shoe upper according to claim 91, in which one or more of the outer contoured shape portions in any protrusion is deformable radially inward relative to the inner contoured shape portion.

93. (New) A shoe upper according to claim 92, in which one or more of the outer contoured shape portions in any protrusion is deformable radially outward relative to the inner contoured shape portion.

94. (New) A shoe upper according to claim 93, in which one or more of the outer contoured shape portions in any protrusion is inclined outward relative to the inner contoured shape portion, so as to promote radially outward deformation of the outer contoured shape portion when that portion comes into contact with the ball.

95. (New) A shoe upper according to claims 89 or 90, in which the inner contoured shape portion is also able to contact the ball.

96. (New) A shoe upper according to claim 95, in which the inner contoured shape portion is deformable:

(a) inwardly; and/or

(b) outwardly

relative to the outer contoured shape portion, upon the inner contoured shape portion coming into contact with the ball.

97. (New) A shoe upper according to claim 90, in which, within any one protrusion, the contoured shape portions generally have the same shape.

98. (New) A shoe upper according to claim 90, in which, within any one protrusion, the contoured shape portions generally have different shapes.

99. (New) A shoe upper according to either of claims 97 or 98, in which the shape of the contoured shape portions is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Circular shapes;

- (b) Triangular shapes;
- (c) Rectangular shapes;
- (d) Square shapes;
- (e) Ovoid shapes;
- (f) Spiral shapes;
- (g) Diamond shapes;
- (h) Semi circular shapes;
- (i) V-like shapes;
- (j) Flower-like shapes;
- (k) Fingerprint-like shapes; and
- (l) Other two-dimensional geometric shapes.

100. (New) A shoe upper according to claim 99, in which the shape of one or more of the contoured shape portions in any one protrusion is formed as:

- (a) a continuous shape; or
- (b) a discontinuous shape.

101. (New) A kit for a shoe upper, the kit including:

- (a) one or more resiliently deformable protrusions, in which each protrusion includes at least an inner contoured shape portion and an outer contoured shape portion, and where the outer

contoured shape portion is deformable so as to promote engagement of the protrusion with the ball; and

- (b) a mounting surface for attaching one or more of the protrusions to the shoe upper so that when attached, the one or more protrusions extend from an outer surface of the shoe upper, and are positioned for contact with a ball.